THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) to (d)The instances of cheating and misguiding by the touts whenever reported are refered to Police for action since touting is a criminal offence covered under the jurisdiction of local police. The issue is also discussed in the Airport Facilitation Committee Meetings and Airport Security Committee Meetings headed by Airport Director. Whenever, there are reports of touting, Stringent action to curb this activity is taken.

Upgradation of Jaipur Airport

611. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect Sanganer Airport (Jaipur) with some International flights and upgrade the Jaipur Airport to that of International standard; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Sanganer Airport (Jaipur) has already been connected with Dubai by Indian Airlines International flight, and Jaipur Airport has already been developed as a Model Airport and is being upgraded to international standards. Further, the works of extension and resurfacing of runway, resurfacing of taxiway, expansion and resurfacing of apron, construction of an Isolation Bay etc. are in progress and are likely to be completed by April 2003.The work of construction of New Technical block cum ControlTower and new first Station is also likely to be completed shortly.

Touts at Airports

†612. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Namon Ki takhtiyan lekar khare rahte hain delal" which appeared in Dainik Jagaran dated 6th June, 2002;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what action has been taken by Government to get the travellers rid of touts and the outcomes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPADYESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Normally, friends, relatives and others who come to receive the arriving passengers, hold placards sowing the passengers' names, on the cityside near the exit from arrival hall. This is a practice prevalent world over. The manifests of arriving passengers are known only to the concerned airline, and AAI has also not come across any complaints of instances where a foreigner has been harassed/cheated by an unknowr agent displaying placard showing his name. Some cases of unauthorised persons holding baggage trolleys outside the departure hall of international terminal, and trying to take money from departing passengers for handing the trolleys, have come to AAI's notice on which AAI has taken appropriate action. In certain cases such unauthorised persons have been apprehended by AAI and have been handed over to the police for taking necessary action as per law. Touting being a criminal offence, is also being dealt with by the Police posted at the airport. The facility of pre-paid taxi service is available at Delhi airport. An arriving passenger can easily avail this facility which is operated by Delhi Traffic Police and records of passenger, taxi number, destination etc. are kept. Tourism counters operated by Tourist Department of Government of India and by Delhi Tourism Development Corporation are also available to domestic and international arrival terminals of the IGI Airport, where passengers can get information for booking hotel accommodation.

Vacant land with Hyderabad Airport

613. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that moe than twenty thousand square meters of vacant land is available with Hyderabad airport in Andhra Prades;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide Cargo Warehouses at this site of the airport; and